

# How and where to get funding: EU funding by area"

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GREEN TRANSITION IN CONSTRUCTION -  
low-carbon construction and sustainable building materials  
Part 2: Green Transition in Central Europe  
Ljubljana, 11.09.2024

# Objective of the presentation

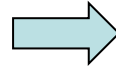
- To present five concrete business ideas for the construction sector, and for each idea, to offer a set of current and upcoming calls for tenders to make them a reality.
- The focus will be on calls to be launched in Q4 2024, 2025 and 2026.

# Structure of the presentation

- Five business ideas:
  - Low carbon construction for urban regeneration
  - Energy renovation of old buildings
  - Using bio-based materials in construction
  - Developing sustainable building materials
  - Digitisation of processes in the construction industry.

# Business Idea 1: Low-carbon construction for urban regeneration (1)

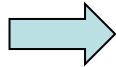
- Possible calls for tender:
  - Horizon Europe - Cluster 5: Climate, Energy and Mobility
    - Web address:  
[https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/cluster-5-climate-energy-and-mobility\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/cluster-5-climate-energy-and-mobility_en)
    - Timeline: publication expected in Q4 2024.



- The funding area includes:
  - **Low-carbon technologies for urban regeneration:** support for projects that introduce technologies to reduce emissions in urban areas, such as innovative building materials and energy-efficient technologies.
  - **Sustainable Urban Infrastructure:** projects that contribute to creating more resilient urban environments by reducing the impact of climate change and improving the quality of life in urban areas.
- **Expected calls for tenders:**
  - **HORIZON-CL5-2024-D3-02-03:** This call will focus on sustainable, secure and competitive energy supply, in particular in the field of low-carbon solutions for urban regeneration. The aim of the call is to develop solutions that will contribute to making cities more resilient and improving the energy efficiency of urban spaces.

# Business Idea 1: Low-carbon construction for urban regeneration (2)

- Possible calls for tender:
  - LIFE Programme - Environment and Resource Efficiency
    - Web address: [https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life/life-calls-proposals-2024\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life/life-calls-proposals-2024_en)
    - Timeline: publication expected in Q4 2024.
- **Supporting low-carbon urban regeneration: the LIFE Programme** funds projects that focus on the development and implementation of sustainable solutions to improve energy efficiency in urban areas. This includes projects that use innovative building materials, renewable energy technologies, and solutions to reduce carbon emissions in urban spaces.
- **Co-financing of projects: the LIFE Programme** offers up to 55% co-financing for projects dealing with the transition to low-carbon technologies in urban regeneration. The programme mainly targets projects that are close to the market, which means that they focus on technologies and solutions that are ready to be implemented in real-life environments.
- **Sustainable development: LIFE projects** promote the implementation of comprehensive strategies for the sustainable development of urban areas, focusing on improving quality of life, energy efficiency, and reducing negative environmental impacts.



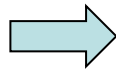
# Business Idea 2: Energy renovation of old buildings (1)

- Possible calls for tender:

- Horizon Europe - Partnerships: Built4People

- Web address:

<https://www.era-learn.eu/network-information/calls-for-partnerships/2024-partnership-related-horizon-europe-calls>



- **Timeline:** publication expected in Q3 2024, with a possible extension to 2025.

- **Objectives of the call:** This call focuses on partnerships that support a sustainable built environment. Energy renovation of old buildings is key to achieving the EU's climate goals, as it contributes to reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Focus on innovation:** the call encourages the development and implementation of new technologies and materials that will enable more efficient energy renovation of buildings. This includes the use of advanced insulation materials, smart energy systems and technologies that make better use of renewable energy sources.
- **Cooperation between partners:** Partnerships are key as the call requires cooperation between different stakeholders, including businesses, research institutions, local authorities and NGOs.
- **Expected results:** successful projects should show significant improvements in energy efficiency and carbon reduction in the renovated buildings. They will also need to demonstrate that the solutions are economically viable and can be widely deployed in different types of buildings across Europe.

# Business Idea 2: Energy renovation of old buildings (2)

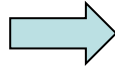
- **Possible calls for tender:**

- **LIFE Programme - Climate Adaptation**

- **Web address:**

[https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life/life-calls-proposals-2024\\_en](https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life/life-calls-proposals-2024_en)

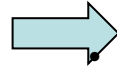
- **Timeline:** publication expected in Q4 2024.



- **Objectives of the call:**The LIFE - Climate Adaptation call aims to support projects that help buildings adapt to climate change. This includes improving the resilience of old buildings to extreme weather conditions such as high temperatures, floods, and high winds, and reducing their environmental impact.
- **Focus on sustainability:** projects must show how they will contribute to the sustainable renovation of old buildings. This includes the use of sustainable building materials, technologies to increase energy efficiency, and innovative solutions to manage resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Climate resilience:** a key focus of the call is the adaptation of buildings to climate change. This may include natural cooling technologies, improved insulation, and the integration of renewable energy sources.
- **Collaboration and interdisciplinary approach:** successful projects will require collaboration between different stakeholders, including construction companies, research institutes, local authorities, and communities.
- **Expected results:** Projects funded under this call will have to demonstrate significant improvements in the energy efficiency and climate resilience of old buildings. They will also need to demonstrate how their solutions will contribute to the EU's wider climate objectives, including reducing emissions and promoting sustainable construction.

# Business idea 3: Using bio-based materials in construction (1)

- Possible calls for tender:
  - Horizon Europe - Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment
    - Web address:  
[https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/cluster-6-food-bioeconomy-natural-resources-agriculture-and-environment\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/cluster-6-food-bioeconomy-natural-resources-agriculture-and-environment_en)
    - Timeline: publication expected in 2025.



- **Aims of the call:** It aims to support innovation and the development of bio-based materials that contribute to sustainable construction and the circular economy. The aim is to promote the use of natural and renewable raw materials in construction, which can reduce the environmental impact and carbon footprint of buildings.
- **Innovation in materials:** projects applying for this call must involve the development of new or improved bio-based materials that have the potential for widespread use in the construction industry. This may include bio-based composites, biopolymers, natural insulation materials, and other sustainable solutions that replace traditional building materials such as concrete or plastics.  
**Focus on sustainable development:** submitted projects must clearly identify how they will reduce the use of fossil fuels, reduce carbon emissions and promote the efficient use of natural resources. It is also essential that projects incorporate elements of the circular economy
- **Cross-sectoral cooperation:** the call promotes interdisciplinary cooperation, where companies in the construction sector work together with research institutes, the agricultural sector, and other industries producing bio-based raw materials.
- **Expected results:** projects must demonstrate a clear contribution to the sustainable use of natural resources and the reduction of environmental impacts. This includes innovative materials that are not only sustainable but also competitive on the market, with the potential for widespread commercial use in construction.



# Business idea 3: Using bio-based materials in construction (2)

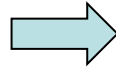
- **Possible calls for tender:**

- **CBE JU - Bio-based Industries**

- **Web address:**

<https://www.cbe.eu/ropa.eu/>

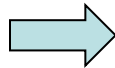
- **Timeline:**  
publication  
expected in 2025.



- **Objectives of the call:**The call **aims** to support innovation in bio-based industries, with a particular focus on the development and implementation of bio-based materials in various sectors, including construction. The aim is to promote the use of renewable resources and the circular economy to create sustainable building materials.
- **Innovation and sustainability:** projects aim to show how bio-based materials can contribute to sustainable construction. This includes the development of materials that have a smaller carbon footprint, are renewable, degradable or recyclable, and can effectively replace non-renewable materials in construction.
- **Circular economy:** the call highlights the integration of circular economy concepts in the development of bio-based materials.
- **Value chain collaboration:** the CBE JU promotes collaboration between different stakeholders in the bio-based materials value chain, including the agricultural sector, the chemical industry, construction companies and research institutes. Projects must demonstrate how they will bring these stakeholders together to create innovative, market-oriented solutions that are ready for widespread deployment.
- **Expected results:** Successful projects should demonstrate a strong contribution to the sustainable use of natural resources, the reduction of environmental burdens and the increased competitiveness of bio-based materials on the market. In addition, projects should contribute to the broader European objectives of transitioning to a circular economy, reducing CO2 emissions and increasing sustainability in the construction industry.

# Business idea 4: Developing sustainable building materials (1)

- Possible calls for tender:
  - Horizon Europe - Cluster 4: Digital, Industry and Space
    - Web address:  
[https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/cluster-4-digital-industry-and-space\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/cluster-4-digital-industry-and-space_en)
    - Timeline: publication expected in Q4 2024.

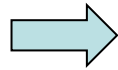


- **Objectives of the call:** The call **aims** to support innovation and progress in digitalisation, industry and space, with a particular focus on the development of sustainable building materials. The aim is to stimulate the development of materials that are more sustainable, energy efficient and have a lower environmental impact compared to traditional building materials.
- **Advanced technologies:** projects must demonstrate the use of advanced technologies and innovations in the development of sustainable materials. This may include the digitisation of production processes, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning to optimise material properties, and the integration of new material technologies such as nanomaterials or recycled materials.
- **The link between digitalisation and sustainability:** this means that it is important to show how digital tools and processes can contribute to better design, simulation, production and monitoring of sustainable materials throughout their life cycle.
- **Industrial and commercial application:** projects must demonstrate how their sustainable building materials will be used in industrial practice and how they will contribute to improving construction processes and finished products. The emphasis is that the materials must be ready for commercialisation and have a clearly defined market potential, with a market entry strategy.

# Business idea 4: Developing sustainable building materials (2)

## ■ Possible calls for tender:

- **CBE JU - Bio-based Industries**
- **Web address:**  
<https://www.cbe.europa.eu/>
- **Timeline:**  
publication expected in 2025.



- **Objectives of the call:** The call focuses on promoting the development of bio-based industries, where bio-based building materials play a key role. The aim is to create and commercialise building materials that are made from renewable, bio-based resources and contribute to the transition towards a more sustainable and circular economy.
- **Innovation in bio-based materials:** projects submitted to this call must demonstrate the development of innovative building materials based on bio-based raw materials. This may include materials such as bio-composites, wood derivatives, biopolymers and other natural materials that have a lower carbon footprint and are renewable and degradable.
- **Circular economy and sustainability:** projects must demonstrate how materials will be sourced, used and recycled according to the principles of the circular economy. Particular emphasis is placed on sustainability throughout the entire life cycle of the material, from raw material extraction to end use and recycling.
- **Cross-sectoral cooperation:** the call encourages close cooperation between different industrial sectors such as agriculture, chemicals and construction. The aim is to link the entire value chain, from the extraction of bio-based raw materials to their use in construction projects.
- **Expected results:** The materials developed in these projects should have a clear commercial potential and contribute to the transition towards a more sustainable and circular construction. Projects must also demonstrate economic viability and the ability to integrate into existing building practices.

# Business Idea 5: Digitising processes in the construction industry. (1)

**Aims of the call:** The aim is to support projects that develop and deploy advanced digital solutions that can fundamentally change processes in the construction industry, improve productivity, reduce costs and increase sustainability.

- **Digital innovation:** Projects submitted to this call must demonstrate a high level of innovation in the use of digital technologies. This may include solutions such as Building Information Modelling (BIM), Artificial Intelligence (AI) to optimise construction processes, IoT to monitor construction materials and automation of construction operations. The focus is on solutions that enable construction projects to be delivered more efficiently, accurately and sustainably.
- **Market orientation:** the EIC Accelerator strongly emphasises market orientation and the potential for commercialisation of innovations. Projects must present a clear business plan, a market entry strategy and a plan to scale the solution in a wider European and global context.
- **Funding and support:** the EIC Accelerator offers substantial funding, which can include grants and equity investments, enabling companies to accelerate the development of their digital solutions and bring them to market. In addition to funding, the programme offers mentoring and advisory support.
- **Expected results:** successful projects will be those that not only develop advanced technologies, but also successfully integrate them into the construction industry and demonstrate their ability to be commercialised and scaled

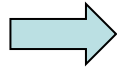
## ■ Possible calls for tender:

### ■ European Innovation Council (EIC) - Accelerator

#### ■ Web address:

[https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-funding-opportunities/eic-accelerator/eic-accelerator-open\\_en](https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-funding-opportunities/eic-accelerator/eic-accelerator-open_en)

#### ■ Timeline: publication expected in 2025.



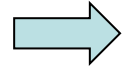
# Business Idea 5: Digitising processes in the construction industry (2)

## ■ Possible calls for tender:

### ■ Horizon Europe - Cluster 4: Digital, Industry and Space

#### ■ Web address:

[https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/cluster-4-digital-industry-and-space\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/cluster-4-digital-industry-and-space_en)



#### ■ Timeline:

publication  
expected in 2025.

- **Aims of the call:** The aim is to support the development and implementation of advanced digital technologies that can significantly improve the efficiency, sustainability and competitiveness of construction processes. Projects must demonstrate how their digital solutions will transform traditional construction practices and enable more efficient and sustainable delivery of construction projects.
- **Advanced digital technologies:** the call encourages projects that introduce digital technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), advanced building modelling (BIM), digital twins, automation and robotics in construction.
- **Link between digitalisation and sustainability:** projects should demonstrate how digitalisation can contribute to sustainability goals such as reducing energy consumption, cutting carbon emissions, optimising the use of materials and improving the life cycle of buildings.
- **Collaboration and interdisciplinarity:** the call encourages collaboration between different disciplines, including engineering, architecture, IT and industry. Collaboration with technology partners and research institutes is crucial for the successful implementation of projects.

# Impact of EU budget cuts on future calls

- **Reductions in Horizon Europe:**
  - The European Commission cuts €2.1 billion from the Horizon Europe budget, of which €1.5 billion is reallocated to defence research. This cut will affect all key clusters, including the Climate, Energy, Mobility, Digital and Industry programmes.
- **Potential impacts on LIFE and CBE JU programmes:**
  - Although the official figures have not yet been confirmed, it is likely that other programmes such as the LIFE Programme and the CBE JU will also see budget cuts due to reallocation of funds for urgent needs, including support to Ukraine.
- **Recommendations for applicants:**
  - Companies and organisations should actively monitor the latest information from the European Commission on budget changes to adapt their applications and strategies in time

# Conclusion

- Firstly, we have identified five business ideas that offer outstanding opportunities for innovation and sustainable development in the construction industry.
- Secondly, we explored funding opportunities through various European programmes such as Horizon Europe, LIFE Programme and CBE JU, and stressed the importance of strategic planning for a successful application.
- I encourage you to actively monitor the calls for proposals.
  - Preparing to apply starts with regular monitoring of publications and responding immediately to opportunities as they arise.
  - Use the resources and platforms we have discussed today to find partners and additional information that will help you to make your projects a success.
  - I also invite you to continue to collaborate and network, as this is key to success in a dynamic and fast-changing environment.

# Thank you for your attention!

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